

● PRINTER RUSH ●
(PTO ASSISTANCE)

Application : 10/722,135 Examiner : A. Hu GAU : 1713

From: R. MITCHELL Location: IDC FMF FDC Date: 2/13/06

Tracking #: EPM 10/722,135 Week Date: 12/15/05

DOC CODE	DOC DATE	MISCELLANEOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> 1449		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continuing Data
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[RUSH] MESSAGE: CONTINUING DATA LISTED ON THE PALM / BIB
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THANK YOU
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[XRUSH] RESPONSE:

J. che

INITIALS: J. che

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REV 10/04

(Signature)
This application is a continuation of 09/847,405 filed May 3, 2001 now Pat No. 6682775 which claims benefit of U.S. provisional 60/202,142 filed May 5, 2000 and claims benefit to U.S. provisional 60/202,226 filed May 5, 2000.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a particulate alkaline earth metal carbonate, e.g., calcium carbonate, for use with a polymer composition for producing a polymer based end product, i.e., a thermoplastic film product, which may have a high mineral film loading. In particular, the present invention relates to a coated carbonate, with an unusually low level of interfering particles, and the processing and use of this carbonate.

Background of the Invention

Alkaline earth metal carbonates, particularly calcium carbonates are used as a particulate filler in end products comprising compositions incorporating thermoplastic polymers, such as film products. Such films, porous or non-porous, are manufactured for a number of consumer products such as garbage bags, backing materials, masking films, labeling, plastic paper, house wrap, roofing membranes, grocery sacks, diapers, bandages, training pants, sanitary napkins, surgical drapes, and surgical gowns. The compositions from which these films are made may include two basic components, the first being a thermoplastic polymer, usually a predominantly linear polyolefin polymer such as a linear low density polyethylene and the second being an inorganic particulate filler such as calcium carbonate. A third component, namely a bonding or tackifying agent may often be present. These components are mixed and compounded together to form a compound or concentrate which is formed (usually in a subsequent process) into a film layer using any one of a variety of film-producing processes known to those